

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview she conducted with Applicants' representative on September 8, 2009. During the interview, Applicants' representative proposed amending independent claims 1 and 2 to recite that the lid directly contacts the bared portion of the core material of one of the electrode plates of the electrode assembly. The Examiner acknowledged that such an amendment would overcome the outstanding rejections. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 in this manner.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 4 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Terashi (Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-340210). Alternatively, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 4 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Terashi.

Applicants' claim 2 recites a battery which includes, inter alia, an electrode assembly including a positive electrode plate and a negative electrode plate. Core materials of the positive and negative electrode plates are bared at ends of the electrode assembly. The battery also includes a lid. The lid *directly* contacts and is *directly* welded to the bared portion of the core material of one of the electrode plates.

Terashi discloses a battery which includes an electrode object 2, an obturation plate 11, a current collection section 5 and a current collection member 4. The electrode object 2 includes a positive electrode 21 and a negative electrode 23, and the current collection member 4 includes a monotonous section 43 and a tab section 42. See, e.g.,

Figure 1 of Terashi, and paragraphs [0013] – [0017] of the English language translation of Terashi.

Applicants respectfully submit that Terashi's lid 11 does not *directly* contact and is not *directly* welded to the electrode plates of the electrode object 2. Rather, the lid 11 is spaced apart from the electrode object 2, and is electrically connected via tab section 42, monotonous section 43 and current collection section 5. See Fig. 1 of Terashi.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention recited in Applicants' claim 2 is neither anticipated by nor obvious over Terashi, and thus, request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 2, 4 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a).

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 11, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Terashi in view of Marukawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,332).

Applicants' claim 1 recites a battery which includes, inter alia, an electrode assembly including a positive electrode plate and a negative electrode plate. Core materials of the positive and negative electrode plates are bared at ends of the electrode assembly. The battery also includes a lid. The lid *directly* contacts and is *directly* welded to the bared portion of the core material of one of the electrode plates of the electrode assembly.

As discussed above, Terashi fails to disclose or suggest a battery which includes an electrode assembly including a positive electrode plate and a negative electrode plate, and a lid, where core materials of the positive and negative electrode plates are bared at ends of the electrode assembly, and the lid *directly* contacts and is *directly* welded to the

bared portion of the core material of one of the electrode plates. Applicants submit that Marukawa also fails to disclose or suggest these features.

Thus, Applicants submit that the invention recited in Applicants' claim 1 is not obvious over the combined teachings of Terashi and Marukawa, and thus, request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 11, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Terashi in view of Marukawa, and further in view of Ikoma (U.S. Patent No. 5,663,007), rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Terashi in view of Ikoma, and rejected claims 9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Terashi in view of Marukawa, and further in view of Tucholski (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0031705) and the American Heritage Dictionary.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ikoma, Tucholski and the American Heritage Dictionary fail to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Terashi and Marukawa, and thus, respectfully submit that claims 5, 9, 12 and 16 are in condition for allowance, in view of their dependency from claims 1 and 2.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

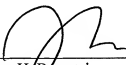
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Reconsideration of the Final Office Action and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have done so.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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